

VOLUME 2

SELWYN HOUSE NEWSLETTERS

1972 - 1981



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2009 with funding from
Selwyn House School

<http://www.archive.org/details/veritasfebruary1973selw>



Montreal Symphony visits the school 220 boys attend M.S.O.

Five musicians from the Montreal Symphony Orchestra recently performed at the School. The quintet - consisting of a violin, viola, cello, clarinet and French horn - played before an appreciative audience of 160 boys from grades 7, 8 and 9.

Each instrument was thoroughly described by the artist and its capabilities were demonstrated. The boys learned, for example, that the French horn was simply a sophisticated 14-foot tube with mouth piece and stops. The musician playing this instrument went on to assemble a "do-it-yourself" French horn, the basis of which was a garden hose of appropriate length. The audience was then treated to a concerto for viola, cello and garden hose.

At various stages of the proceedings, the boys heard solos, duets, trios and quintets by Beethoven, Bach, von Beckerath and Crusell. The one-hour presentation, designed to supplement the School's music programme, proved to be most instructive and thoroughly appreciated.

220 BOYS ATTEND M.S.O.

Boys of grades 4, 5, 6 and 7 have been enrolled in the three-part concert series of the Montreal Symphony at the Place des Arts. On January 23, 220 youngsters travelled to the Concert Hall to attend the second of the matinée performances for young people. Conductor Paul Decker most ably presented a programme entitled, "How Many Notes in a Scale?" Excerpts from *Carmen*, *Cosi fan tutte*, Bach's *Chorale*, and pieces by von Suppé highlighted the programme. The third concert will be held on May 15.



New Board Members Elected

At last Autumn's Annual Meeting of the Selwyn House Association, Mr. E.M. Ballon (1930-38) was elected Chairman of the Board of Governors, replacing Mr. R. C. Paterson (1934-41) who has held the position since 1970.

Mr. J. de M. Marler (1916-21) retired from the Board, after 12 years of service. Also retiring were: Mrs. V. C. Goldbloom, Mrs. A.B. Purvis, Mr. J. Mappin (1933-42), and

Mr. W.S. Cottingham.

Newly-elected to the Board were: Mrs. W.C. McConnell, Mr. R.T. Riley (1943-46), Mr. P. Landry (1929-31), Mr. T. R. Carsley (1944-52), and Mr. Lee Watchorn (1951-59), President of the Old Boys' Association.

Mr. K.S. Howard was elected Vice-Chairman; Mr. W. H. Daly, Treasurer; and Mr. Carsley, Secretary.

Important changes in French programme introduced 5 New Teachers Join Department



Mr. G. Gosselin, the Director of French Studies.

Probably the most significant recent development in the School's academic curriculum has been the reorganization of the French Department.

By its very nature and situation a School such as Selwyn House cannot aspire to graduate bilingual students. We do aim, however, to develop the fluency of our boys' French so that the student upon graduation will be comfortable in French under most circumstances, not merely in casual social exchanges. Our graduates must be capable of adapting with ease to undergraduate studies at a Franco-phone university.

This September, Mr. Gerry Gosselin was appointed Director of French Studies. Mr. Gosselin is a graduate of Sir George Williams University and before coming to us, he was with the Protestant School Board of Greater Montreal. He brings with him 18 years of teaching experience.

Attention this year is being focused on the French programme of grades 1 - 7. In the Junior School approximately one-third of total class instruction is given in French and subjects such as Geography, Scripture, Writing and Singing are taught in

(See French - page 4)

Student survey gives profile of school enrolment

This year's Selwyn House enrolment stands at 430 boys, as follows: Senior School (grades 8 - 11) - 182; Middle School (grades 5 - 7) - 140; Junior School (grades 1 - 4) - 108.

A recent student survey revealed an interesting profile of the School's enrolment. There are 60 families who have two sons at the School, 8 having three boys and one with four sons. There were reports of over 150 Old Boys who are relatives of our present students, and 10% of the students are sons of Old Boys.

Half the boys live in Westmount, and the remainder are scattered throughout the Island, with some commuting from points as distant as Hudson, Mt. St. Hilaire, Ste. Adele, St. Jean and Green Valley, Ontario. The

South Shore claims 22 boys and the West Island has 17, while 20 live in N.D.G. and 35 in Hampstead - St. Luc - Montreal West.

To the question, "which language is commonly spoken in your home?", 28 replied French, 13 German, 7 Spanish, 7 Greek, 5 Italian, 3 Hungarian and two each of Danish, Dutch, Czech, Swedish and Hindu with one Roumanian. In many instances, the languages commonly spoken at home were one or two of these in combination with English.

There were a reported 146 Protestants, 106 Roman Catholics, 67 Anglicans, 44 Hebrews, 14 Eastern Orthodox and a Hindu and a Buddhist. The remainder either did not reply or did not know or indicated, "none".

Headmaster Emeritus returns to staff

We are delighted to have Dr. Robert A. Speirs back with us on the teaching staff on a part-time basis.

After retiring from the position of Headmaster in June 1971, Dr. Speirs completed a course at the University of Montreal, and then spent three months on a diploma course at the Institute of Foreign Students at Montpellier University, France. While there, he participated regularly in panel discussions at the university and at local churches, and made the acquaintance of local dignitaries; at the same

(See Speirs - page 3)



Headmaster Emeritus Speirs

Christmas Ball at Queen Elizabeth

The Christmas term reached a happy conclusion on December 21st, 1972, with a Christmas Ball at the Queen Elizabeth Hotel. About two hundred parents, students, Old Boys and staff attended what is hoped will become an annual event. Every style of dress, from sports jackets to dinner jackets helped to combine dignity with informality; the two orchestras, afforded a choice between

vigorous rock music, "pop" tunes and the older favourites, so that all ages were catered to. Mr. Troubetzkoy, the "dance caller", succeeded admirably in getting the couples to mix through a variety of dances. The evening proved most enjoyable, and afforded an excellent opportunity for meeting without discussing school matters.



The Choc Shop in action.

Student Project Society

The Students Project Society, which began modestly just over five years ago, has as its object the assisting of the school in acquiring facilities which might not otherwise be available. It has grown and expanded its activities until it now consists of some twenty boys, from grades 7 to 11, who operate,

on sound business lines, two flourishing enterprises.

The "Sports Shop" endeavours to supply, at competitive prices, the clothing, equipment and accessories needed for the various sports programmes in the school, and during its times of operation before and after school, and at recesses - it (See Student Project - page 3)

CHESS CLUB: Most popular activity

The most popular of this year's extra-curricular activities is the Selwyn House Chess Club. A total of 34 seniors meet on a weekly basis to do battle over the boards.

William Turner, the Club's President, has been instrumental in setting up a chess ladder. The Club has entered an inter-School round-robin in which seventeen Montreal high schools are participating, including our close neighbours, Westmount High and St. George's School.

Earlier in the year, Monsieur Bernard Ouimet, President of the Montreal Chess League, addressed the Club. Mr. Ouimet spoke on the Spassky-Fischer matches which he attended in Iceland last summer. Mr. N. Shaw is the Staff Advisor to the Chess Club.

In the Middle School, twenty-two boys have joined the Chess Club, and its membership also is actively engaged in a Chess ladder. Mr. J. Varey is the Staff Advisor.

Woodwork offered to grades 4 - 11

When the school moved to Westmount eleven years ago, the wood-working shop was re-established in the basement of the Superintendent's house, next door to the school on Argyle Avenue. Over the years considerable improvements have been made. Last summer the shop was repainted and many new tools were acquired. We now have, in addition to the many excellent hand tools, a table-saw, a lathe, a drill-press and a planer.

This year, for the first time, we have boys from all sec-

tions of the school taking part in this activity. Boys in the Senior and Middle Schools enjoy their weekly Activity periods in this way, while grade 4 boys spend an hour at wood-work every Monday afternoon. Projects undertaken by the boys range from simple toys to more elaborate pieces such as small articles of furniture, turnery, and carving. We intend to show some of these projects at the Parents' Evening on March 22nd, and we hope that as many as possible will turn out to see this exhibition.



A senior lends a hand at the lathe.

160 boys participate in Christmas Pageant

The Christmas entertainment at the end of last term took on an historical air. The Art Department, under the guidance of Mrs. Pinchuk, transformed the gymnasium into the Hall of a mediaeval castle; at the high table sat members of the Middle School Drama Club, in gorgeous costumes prepared by Mrs. McConnell and Mrs. Ivry Douglas Peets, as the resident jester, acted as

master of ceremonies to introduce the various numbers.

Under Miss Delain's direction, grades 1 and 2 performed, in French, "Les Petits Chats" and "Noël Ancien"; grade 3 vigorously portrayed a farmyard of geese battling with raiding foxes. Grade 4, admirably coached by Mr. Gosselin, presented "Les Raftsmen" and "Strawberry Fair". The Middle School Drama Club

dramatised the carol "I Saw Three Ships". A more solemn note was added by a choir of monks, from the middle school, singing in Latin and English under the direction of Mr. Crisp.

The whole evening was a great success, and our thanks are extended to Mrs. Marsh, whose inspiration and hard work were largely responsible for that success.

S.H.S. "Cultural Package" great success

In cooperation with Canadian Concerts and Artists, the School has been successful in arranging a "Cultural Package" for 62 of its boys in grades 3 - 11.

Subscriptions have been purchased for three varied presentations at Place des Arts. In November the boys saw the RAJKO Hungarian Gypsy Orchestra, a company of 65 musicians, dancers and singers. On March 16, they will attend a performance of the Polish Mime Ballet Theatre and on April 6 they will see the Great Moscow Circus.

Buses leave from the School in time for the Friday night performances and return to the School after the presentation. The initial reaction to the "Cultural Pack-

age" - from boys and parents - has been entirely favourable and the School looks forward to expanding the programme next year.

SILVERWARE WANTED

During an academic year, Selwyn House has occasion to entertain groups of visitors to the School. For the most part, tea is served at these functions and ordinary kitchen service is used. We are most anxious to acquire two large Silver Tea Sets and also two Silver Candlesticks.

Should any of our readers have silverware which they may wish to present to the School - this will be gratefully received and appropriately acknowledged.



The Study vs Selwyn House, 1949



From left to right: Eric Molson, Tony Bogert, Peter Duffield, David MacMangton, Stephen Molson, Nicholas Thorton, Frederick Meredith, Bill Daly, Peter Krohn, Dorothy Johnstone, Jane Townsend, Ann Lucas, Angela Cassils, Elizabeth Vail, Margaret Ogilvie, Cynthia Molson, Camilla Porteous, Faith Heward, Fiona Bogert, Ann Ballantyne, Ann Powell.

Old Boys Executive selected

At a recent executive meeting of the Old Boys' Association, the following officers were elected: *Lee Watchorn* ('51-'59), President; *Kerry Martin* ('48-'57), Secretary-Treasurer; *Tim Stewart* ('50-'59), News Secretary; and *Alan Case* ('55-'66) and *Thomas Holy* ('68-'72).

Directors. Mr. Gordon Phillips has undertaken to assist Tim in gleaning information, and Old Boys with anything interesting to report, either of themselves or of their contemporaries, are asked to get in touch with him (telephone 489-0876).

25 years ago . . .



SENIOR HOCKEY TEAM, 1948

Front row (l. to r.): B. Campbell, E. Newcomb, J. Domville, C. Seymour, A. Raymond, Mr. Phillips.
Back row (l. to r.): D. Jackson, G. Currie, E. Pollard, R. Watson, B. Cusson.

O.B. Hockey Game and Cocktail Party planned

The annual hockey match against the school is scheduled for March 5. Those interested in playing or supporting should get in touch with either Alan Case, or with Kerry Martin at the school. At press time we hear that plans are being made for an Old Boys' Cocktail party later in March.

O.B.A. NECKTIE

Official neckties of the Selwyn House Old Boys' Association are available at Howarth's of Canada, 1444 St. Catherine Street West. These handsome ties are of black silk with a design of the School's gold lion rampant. The price is \$6.50.

Speirs . . .

time he studied the social and historical background of the district. Upon his return from France he embarked on further studies at Montreal University, but in spite of this he assures us that he occasionally finds time to enjoy the colour-television receiver with which the school presented him.

He now takes grades 3, 4, 9 and 10 for Scripture, and grades 7 and 8 in what the time-table calls "Linguistics". We hope that Dr. Speirs will continue with us for many terms to come.

Notes about Old Boys

We learn with regret of the death of *Bartlett McLennan Ogilvie*, a member of the original Board of Governors.

John Aimers (1957-61), who has been active in a variety of political activities, has been appointed executive assistant to the M.P. for Wetaskiwan.

Peter Hutchins (1951-54), who graduated in Law from Laval University, is at the moment involved with the Indian claims in the James Bay area.

Jamie Morgan (1954-65) is in the business of wholesale package tours, mostly for the sports world.

Craig Shannon (1964-71) is now playing hockey in the University team at Queen's. A number of Old Boys

have recently visited the school, though most have merely reported that all is well with them, without adding news of spectacular achievement or interesting adventure. They include

John Hallward (circa 1943)
Michael Meighen (1945-53)
Peter Hutchins (1951-54)
Jamie Morgan (1954-65)
Douglas Cousins (1963-65)
Michael Rawlings (1956-66)
Christopher Roper (1964-69)
Michael Lapin (1966-71)
Roswell James (1961-72)
Bruce Miller (1964-72)
Thomas Holy (1968-72)
James Iversen (honorary Old Boy, 1972).

We are always delighted to see Old Boys at the School, and we hope that more will visit us from time to time.

Student Project . . .

provides a valuable service to the boys.

The other undertaking — popularly known as "The Choc Shop" — has been in operation much longer, and at recess and after school it offers candy bars, potato chips, soft drinks, and other reinforcements to normal diet that boyish appetites consider desirable.

With the profits earned, the Project Society has purchased some much-needed audio-visual equipment for

the School. In 1969-70 they provided a hi-fi stereo sound system with forty records; a loud hailer; and a substantial subsidy to finance the next year's Film Society programme. In 1970-71 they provided a stereo tape recorder and a cassette type recorder. In 1971-72 the Society presented the school with a complete audio-visual recorder.

Current business suggests that the munificence will be maintained in the course of this year.

INFORMATION PLEASE!

ADDRESS CHANGE
 BIRTH/DEATH

NAME
ADDRESS

YEARS AT THE SCHOOL
INFORMATION

NEW APPOINTMENT
 ENGAGEMENT/MARRIAGE

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
 TRAVEL/OTHER

Signature

Date



Senior Hockey in action at B.C.S. (S.H.S. - 4, B.C.S. - 0).

Middle School Sports Programme Varied Activities Offered

The middle school athletics programme has been expanded this year. In grade 6 boys are assigned groups according to skating ability; the weaker have concentrated on improving their skating, while the others have been able to attempt more. At the same time the boys have been taking part in "Challenge Gymnastics", which allows them to undertake different movements and develop skills which will be seen in the Gymnastic Display later on. In grade 7 boys have been allowed to choose

two of hockey, basketball and wrestling. In hockey stress is laid upon team play, but an instructional programme is available for the less skilled. In the other two spheres, which are new to this level, emphasis is laid chiefly on the acquiring of the necessary skill, while the competitive aspect is minimised. It will take time to see the full results of these new ventures, but progress is already marked. We hope that we are affording opportunities to suit all students.

Bantam Basketball joins G.M.I.A.A.

Interest in basketball this year has been great enough for us to enter a Bantam team in the G.M.I.A.A. league. A record to date of two wins and six losses does not sound impressive, but there has been a steady improvement in standard, and defeats have sometimes been by narrow margins. The enthusiasm of the boys has been steady, and they are beginning to have greater confidence in themselves, and to hope for better results in the remainder of the season.

A middle school team has been formed, and it is hoped it will be possible to arrange some matches for them. The seniors also will be playing exhibition games against other schools. Their prowess in two exhibition games with the girls of The Study School holds promise for future engagements with other teams.

Squash introduced to athletic programme

In cooperation with the Montreal Badminton and Squash Club, some twenty boys of Grades 8 - 11 are actively engaged in Squash as their choice of Winter Sport. Mr. Kerry Martin is the coordinator of the School's programme and he is also in charge of the Club's Junior Programme.

Two boys from the School represented the Badminton

Club at the U.S. Boys' Singles Tournament which was held in Exeter, Massachusetts. The top juveniles from United States, Canada and Mexico participated in this demanding Tournament. Jamie Goodall was eliminated in the second round of consolation, 3-2, and Robbie Goodall was eliminated in the semi-finals, 3-1.



S.H.S. Snowshoe Club



Four members of the Snowshoe Club on a weekend in the Laurentians.

University. With the exception of Mr. Ankum, all these teachers were appointed to the staff this year.

Perhaps the most interesting aspect of recent developments in the School's French Department, is the Advanced French course introduced by Mr. Weber at the Grade 11 level. This course, called "Visages du Québec", focuses attention on the literary, cinematographic, theatrical and musical aspects of today's Québec cultural scene. The course has been recognized by Montreal's English-speaking CEGEP's and credit for its successful completion will be given by these schools.

A comprehensive French curriculum is being prepared for the entire School and next

year further improvements are anticipated in the programme for grade 8 - 11.

Senior students enjoy French theatre

Forty boys of Grades 10 and 11 participated in two excursions to La Nouvelle Compagnie Théâtrale. In September the youngsters attended a presentation of *La Commedia dell'Arte* by Marc Favreau and in January they saw Jean-Luc Bastien's production of *Le théâtre de la Maintenance*.

Mr. Gerry Gosselin organized these excursions as a supplementary activity of the French Department.



